The Central Ground Water Board has taken up a study of the pollution of the ground water in the area.

Social forestry in Andhra Pradesh

599. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: what steps are being taken to encourage social forestry in Andhra Pradesh, what are the details thereof and what are the proposals for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): Social Forestry in Andhra Pradesh is being implemented through various State Plan and Centrally Sponsored Schemes. However, impetus to the programme in the State was given by the Social Forestry Project implemented from 1983-84 to 31-3-91 at a total cost of Rs. 42.76 crores with assistance from the Canadian International Development Agency. (CIDA).

During the Seventh Five Year Plan period (1985—90), total coverage in the State under afforestation and tree planting activities, including Social Forestry, was 7.27 lakh hectares. For 1991-92 the target was 16 crores seedling distribution and area coverage of 30,000 hectares. The programme is expected to be enlarged during the Eighth Five Year Plan.

Pollution of coastal water at Visakhapatnam and Kakinada

600. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coastal waters at Visakhapatnam and Kakinada in eastern coast are polluted; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to prevent the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Certain stretches of the coastal waters of Visakhapatnam and Kakinada have been found to be polluted because of discharge of untreated industrial effluent and sewage.

(b) (i) Point sources of pollution have been identified;

(ii) Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board secures compliance of standards by industries discharging their effluents into the coastal waters along Andhra coast;

(iii) Wherever applicable, the industries/municipalities have been directed to construct marine outfalls with a diffuser system;

(iv) The Central Government has issued general instructions that no industry/factory should be given a consent to establish "within 500 meters from the shore-line".

Smuggling of forest wealth in Tripura

601. SHRI ASHIS SEN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any direction was given to the Chief Conservator of Forests (Central) to investigate into the allegations of illegal smuggling of forests wealth in Tripura;

(b) if so, what was the result of that investigation;

(c) whether it is a fact that extensive smuggling of forest wealth in Tripura has taken place; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d) The Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), North-Eastern Zone, was directed to investi-